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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
26 October 1962

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Cuba--Internal Reaction to US Quarantine

1. The general mood of the people, as gleaned from Havana press dispatches, Cuban radio broadcasts, and [REDACTED] is one of relative tranquility on the surface but with some tension apparently now building up. The Castro regime seems to be increasingly apprehensive over the possibilities of an internal uprising as well as of an invasion. That part of the populace opposed to Castro, while heartened by the US quarantine action, is worried over the possibility of bombings.

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2. The Castro regime's order of 23 October suspending all commercial airline flights between Miami and Havana has reduced almost to zero the number of Cuban refugees arriving in this country since the quarantine was announced. Much of our direct informa-

[REDACTED]

22 October. The reaction to the US move expressed by nearly all those persons contacted was one of jubilation--although the disenchantment of these people with Castro, as evidenced by their willingness to communicate with US residents, makes this an admittedly one-sided sampling.

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3. There is no specific information available to indicate whether and to what extent the general populace's attitude toward the US may have been affected by the quarantine action.

4. The Castro regime is devoting most of its time and energies to increasing its military preparedness. Leaders of the regime, including Raul Castro, Che Guevara, and President Dorticos have not made any public statements since the crisis began, and no word has been heard from Fidel Castro since his 90-minute speech

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on the evening of 23 October, although he reportedly is still in Havana. Guevara is reported to have established his military headquarters in Pinar del Rio Province, and Raul is rumored to have gone to Oriente Province.

5. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] reveal some confusion over mobilization orders and supply difficulties in at least several military units. All-source intelligence reporting reflects regime concern over military morale and fighting spirit, which, however, still seem generally high. Cuban internal security units have been alerted to "make a close check and report soonest any possible insurrection," and military commanders have been ordered to make daily reports on combat morale and political reliability in their respective commands. Known dissidents are being rounded up, as was the case during previous military alerts.

6. Cuban propaganda outlets continue to play down any references to the presence in Cuba of Soviet missiles or other offensive weapons, and most Cuban spokesmen at home and abroad are still denying the presence of Soviet bases in Cuba. Many Cubans, however, have long believed that Soviet offensive missiles were being emplaced in Cuba. Most of the people in Cuba contacted by telephone since President Kennedy's speech on 22 October showed a lack of knowledge about how the crisis is developing. Cuban radio transmitters have remained silent on the turnabout of Soviet cargo ships originally bound for Cuba but gave heavy play to plans for a rousing welcome for the Soviet tanker Bukharest which was to arrive in Havana early this morning. A "celebration" at 1300 Cuban time today marking the Bukharest arrival is to feature Cuban labor boss Lazaro Pena as one of the speakers.

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